

What People are Saying . . .

"Keri, through tremendous love and perseverance has helped make Taylor's world a place where he can grow and succeed." - *Paula Zahn, host of Paula Zahn, Now (CNN)*

"Making a movie that's accurate and real, and touches people in a lasting way is what filmmaking is all about—and Keri's talks capture that reality." - *Joey Travolta, Producer*

"An amazing show! Fascinating, funny and poignant, with unique glimpses into what is 'Normal'." - *Naomi Judd, the New Naomi Judd Show*

"Keri's work is amazing. The autistic kids interviewed in the film opened up and provided outstanding insight into what it's like to be autistic. Keri is a powerful director and a great guest." - *Phil Keating, Geraldo at Large*

"Keri teaches great key strategies and effectively communicates how strong bridges are built between parents and the community." - *Debbie Moss, Los Angeles Unified School District*

"WOW!!!! I loved it!!! I mean absolutely awesome!! I can't wait to show my entire staff at our in-service." - *Troy Strawder, ARC Marion*

"A sensational talk, having everyone up on their feet to say 'thank you, thank you.' We learned so much from your talk." - *Mary Alice Willis, Developmental Disability Nurses Association*

Copies of the DVD's of both "Normal People Scare Me" and "The Sandwich Kid" will be available for purchase at the event.

For more information or questions contact:

The Autism Society of Connecticut
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Telephone: 888-453-4975
www.autismsocietyofct.org

Directions:

I-84 Westbound:

Exit 48, Asylum Ave. Go right at the end of the ramp. Travel 1.5 miles on Asylum Ave to Scarborough St. Turn right onto Scarborough St. Go to the end, and make a left onto Rte 44 West. In several hundred yards, turn right onto Route 189. Go 1.2 miles and turn left onto Abrahms Blvd. Turn left into the JCC parking lot.

From West of Manchester, CT

Take exit 61, I-291 West to Windsor. Travel 6.5 miles to exit 1, CT Rte 218. Head west on CT Rte 218, and continue for about 3.75 miles. Turn left onto Bloomfield Ave/CT Route 189. Travel 1.25 miles and turn right onto Abrahms Rd. Turn left into JCC Parking Lot.

I-84 Eastbound:

Take Exit 43, Park Rd. Turn right at the end of the ramp. Make an immediate left onto Trout Brook Dr. Travel 2.5 miles to Albany Ave, Rte 44. Turn right and follow Albany Ave for 1 mile to Route 189. Make a left into Rte 189. Go 1.5 miles and turn left onto Abrahms Blvd. Turn left into the JCC parking lot.

I-91 North or Southbound

Exit 35A-B, CT Route 218. Head west on CT Rte 218 and follow it for 3.75 miles. Turn left onto Bloomfield Ave./CT Rte 189. Go 1.25 miles, and turn right onto Abrahms Blvd. Turn left into the JCC Parking Lot.



The Autism Society of Connecticut and The Autism Spectrum Services Division of the CT Department of Developmental Services present

"Normal People Scare Me" & "The Sandwich Kid" a film and discussion evening

With Keri Bowers and Taylor Cross

Thursday, March 13, 2008

**Film Screening
And Discussion:**

7:00 p.m.

(open to the public)

(\$10 suggested donation at the door)

**Mandell JCC
335 Bloomfield Ave
West Hartford, CT**



About Keri and Taylor

Keri's passion for advocacy began 18 years ago when her son Taylor was born with developmental delays and eventually diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. A paralegal in the entertainment field, the challenge of autism redirected her career goals and today her work includes film making, public speaking,, advocacy, legislative reform and education for parents, teachers, physicians and others touched by developmental disabilities.

"What is normal, anyway?" asks Taylor. He will share his perspective in growing up with ASD and making the film with his mentor, Joey Travolta.

Taylor this past year as been learning to fly solo under a pilot program that creates customized employment options for persons with disabilities. Working with a coach, Taylor has focused on developing the practical business and life skills necessary for success in the real world.

Keri and his mom will talk about their lives, challenges, struggles and successes.

About the films:

Released in 2006, "Normal People Scare Me" has made its way around the world on a mother and son speaking and screening tour. The film was conceived by Taylor Cross—an aspiring filmmaker with autism—when he was 15. Co-created by Taylor and his mother, disability advocate and expert, Keri Bowers, the film has been a critical success throughout the world since its release.

In this film, Taylor offers a quirky and refreshing interview style as he asks questions including "Do you like being autistic?" "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and "Have you been teased?" Interviews with over 65 individuals offer powerful, poignant insight into the joys and sorrows behind the faces and mysteries of autism. This film crosses over and bridges those with disabilities and those without.

Disabilities affect not only those who are diagnosed, but they also have a strong impact on siblings. The "Sandwich Kid" seeks to give a voice to those who are impacted by the day-to-day living with a brother or sister having a disability. The film is moved forward by 12 year old Jace King who we first met in "Normal People Scare Me". A formidable force, Jace uses wit, charm and keen insights as his "brothers keeper" to extract laughter and tears in the interviews he conducts with dozens of "sibs" ranging in age from 6 to 59. Along the way, he shares his won struggles and challenges to building a relationship after years of estrangement with his quirky brother.

Attendees are advised to bring along a supply of tissues for this evening of inspiration.

The Autism Spectrum Services Division of the Ct Department of Developmental Services.

In June, 2007, the Division of Autism Spectrum Services was created within the Department of Developmental Services. The creation of this division is a recognition of the need for autism specific services and supports within the Department. Currently, the Division is implementing the Autism Pilot Program for individuals with autism who do not have mental retardation. As funding becomes available, the division will expand its responsibility into other areas. The Division receives guidance from an Advisory Council consisting of parents, professionals, families and persons with ASD. For more information go to www.ctgov.dds.

The Autism Society of Connecticut

The Autism Society of Connecticut works with parents, educators, state government and therapeutic and medical professionals to enhance the lives of those touched by Autism Spectrum Disorders. ASCONN is a statewide organization that serves the entire autism spectrum—across specific diagnosis, needs, challenges and age ranges. As a chapter of the Autism Society of America, ASCONN has access to the resources of a national organization, to bring insight and programming to families here in Connecticut.

ASCONN is focused on three areas:

- Serving as a statewide autism resource
- Providing grants to families who may need financial assistance
- Raising awareness of autism

ASCONN is a 501(c)(3) organization. All monies raised help serve the Connecticut autism community.